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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

DEC 11 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, PROGRAM D

SUBJECT: FY 1968 SR-71 Program Approval Adjustments

Reference [redacted] from the DNRO, and [redacted] GR65 received subsequently, which requested reconsideration of the FY 1968 funding for Maintenance Crew Assistance and Field Technical Representatives.

With respect to the Maintenance Crew Assistance (involving contracting and funding thru CIA), the FY 1968 program approval is hereby increased from [redacted]. However, there are several qualifications involved:

The FY 1968 approval is a recognition of efforts required in preparation for a possible deployment, and to effect backlog reductions. It is not to be considered as an automatic sanction of a continuation of contractor personnel at this level into or beyond FY 1969.

Previous statements and cost reflections to outside reviewers in this category were on the basis that base maintenance would be furnished by military personnel, with limited "advisory" assistance by contractor. The [redacted] team, even if considered a depot-type extension, can be construed as a substitution of contractor for military personnel. Care must be exercised that contractor personnel are not hired as substitutes for military.

Paragraph 1 (J) of [redacted] wire states that the first five months of FY 1968 operations were based on this high rate (even though the approval was [redacted] and that holding to a [redacted] revised approval "would cause a major disruption in program support and have an adverse effect on operational readiness." While technically SPO has had the authority to adjust between categories, it is considered that in this instance a rate increase of over three times the approval should have been called to our attention. It appears, then, that future approvals will have to be more restrictive in the future. In this instance, the revised [redacted] figure can not be increased without advance approval of the DNRO.

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[redacted] also requested reconsideration of the Field Technical Representative approval. While not stated in the message, other indications are that the requested amount may include tech reps at Eglin in fairly sizeable numbers. The Nov 28 revised approval included [redacted] related to deployment, so it is not clear if the result of the approval will adversely affect mission effectiveness." Accordingly, the Nov 28 approval is considered applicable until the adverse affects are clarified.

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